

Farm Labor

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Farm Workers Increase Seasonally Wage Rates Reach New High for July

The Nation's farm labor force totaled 6,244,000 for the week of June 19-25. Of this total, 4,216,000 were family members and 2,028,000 were hired workers. Even though this represents an increase of 9 percent in the total number of workers since the May survey week, it is 9 percent below the number for the corresponding period in 1965.

Compared with the May survey week, hired workers showed a 37 percent increase which was partially offset by a 1 percent decrease in numbers of family workers. Comparisons with June a year earlier, however, show the number of family workers and the number of hired workers declining 9 and 11 percent, respectively.

Farm work is increasing seasonally as more crops reach the harvesting stage. Wheat harvest ranged from near completion in the southwest to just starting in northern Kansas and southern Nebraska. Harvest crews are reported to be moving northward in sufficient numbers to meet harvest demands.

Most row crops are being cultivated. Progress of the corn crop is generally excellent. Soybean planting is in the final stages. Cotton plants are mostly in the "squaring" and "setting boll" stages of development. Tobacco harvest is active in Florida and becoming more active in southern parts of Georgia. Local labor supplies are being used for the harvesting and barning of this crop. Vegetable harvest is practically complete in extreme southern areas and becoming active in scattered areas throughout the Nation. Harvest is well underway in southern peach areas.

July Farm Wage Rates up 8 Percent from Last Year

The level of farm wage rates reported by farm operators on July 1, 1966, was 8 percent over a year earlier, and 35 percent above the 1957-59 average. The average cash rate per hour, without board or room, increased 8 percent over July 1, 1965, to \$1.26 per hour. Monthly and daily rates also showed similar gains. Comparisons of July 1 State averages for 1965 and 1966 on pages 7 and 8 show the generally consistent trend of wage rate increases for the various hiring arrangements. Wage rates reported for farm workers in Alaska were as follows: per month with house, \$400; per month with board and room, \$290; per day without board or room, \$16.50; and per hour without board or room, \$2.25.

Hours Worked by Farm Workers

Farm workers, both family and hired, on reporting farms averaged 41.4 hours of farm work during the June survey week. This compares with 41.3 hours for the same period in 1965 and represents a decline of 0.4 hours from a month earlier. Family workers averaged a work week of 46.3 hours, an increase of 1.9 hours over the May 1966 survey week.

Considerably more hired workers were doing farm work than a month earlier; however, these workers averaged a shorter work week. They averaged 32.9 hours, a decline of 2.9 hours from the May 1966 survey week. The New England, Middle Atlantic, and East North Central regions showed declines of 4.8, 4.5, and 5.2 hours, respectively. The work week was 2.6 to 3.4 hours shorter in all other regions except the West South Central, which showed a decline of only 0.3 hour from a month earlier.

Farm employment and indexes, June 1966, with comparisons, United States

	: Annual : average : 1960-64 <u>1/</u>	: Annual : average : 1965 <u>1/</u>	: June : average : 1960-64 <u>1/</u>	: June : 20-26, : 1965	: June : 19-25, : 1966
FARM EMPLOYMENT					
(Thousands)					
Total	6,662	5,610	7,955	6,872	6,244
Family labor	4,862	4,128	5,349	4,596	4,216
Hired labor	1,800	1,482	2,606	2,276	2,028
INDEXES <u>2/</u>					
(1910-14=100)					
Total	49	41	50	43	39
Family labor	48	41	48	42	38
Hired labor	53	44	54	47	42
(1957-59=100)					
Total	89	75	91	78	71
Family labor	88	75	89	76	70
Hired labor	92	76	94	82	73

1/ Employment during the last full calendar week ending at least one day before the end of the month.

2/ Monthly indexes are adjusted for seasonal variation.

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Farm Wage Rates and Indexes, July 1, 1966, United States

	: Annual : average : 1965	: July : average : 1960-64	: July : 1, : 1965	: July 1, : 1966
FARM WAGE RATES				
Composite rate per hour <u>1/</u>	\$ 0.951	\$ 0.837	\$ 0.929	\$ 1.01
Per month with house	223	210	232	253
Per month with board and room ...	171	156	171	184
Per week with board and room	40.25	38.25	42.50	45.25
Per week without board or room ..	51.50	50.00	55.00	59.25
Per day with house	6.20	5.50	6.10	6.50
Per day with board and room	7.40	7.20	7.90	8.50
Per day without board or room ...	7.60	6.80	7.50	8.10
Per hour with house	1.03	.96	1.07	1.15
Per hour without board or room ..	1.14	1.07	1.17	1.26
INDEXES <u>2/</u>				
(1910-14=100)	732	665	726	786
(1957-59=100)	126	114	125	135

1/ Weighted average of all rates on a per hour basis.

2/ Indexes are adjusted for seasonal variation.

Farm Work: Weekly Hours Worked Per Worker

State and division	Average for reporting farms - week of June 19-25, 1966				
	Farm Operator	Other Family Members ^{1/}	All Family ^{1/}	Hired Workers	All Workers ^{1/}
	Hours	Hours	Hours	Hours	Hours
Maine	56.5	39.5	50.8	38.8	45.2
N.H.	64.0	34.5	56.0	32.6	44.0
Vt.	70.0	45.4	60.5	38.8	50.4
Mass.	63.3	33.5	51.4	35.0	43.8
R.I.	52.8	29.3	48.6	33.1	39.9
Conn.	59.6	35.1	51.0	40.9	45.5
N.Eng.	62.0	38.2	53.6	37.5	45.7
N.Y.	64.8	31.6	53.0	37.5	46.6
N.J.	51.3	27.4	43.3	32.7	38.5
Pa.	58.6	36.6	50.1	30.6	43.9
M.Atl.	60.7	33.9	50.8	34.2	44.4
Ohio	57.5	37.2	50.2	22.4	39.8
Ind.	51.2	30.8	44.4	23.9	38.0
Ill.	58.0	39.2	53.0	33.9	47.8
Mich.	58.0	41.9	52.2	27.0	43.9
Wis.	67.4	38.9	54.7	39.4	51.6
E.N.Cent.	58.5	37.5	51.0	28.9	44.5
Minn.	63.4	37.5	52.8	33.2	49.0
Iowa	66.5	36.6	55.2	29.4	47.4
Mo.	53.3	39.6	49.3	26.7	43.0
N.Dak.	62.4	44.4	54.9	48.5	53.7
S.Dak.	60.1	37.8	52.2	37.6	49.4
Nebr.	59.6	41.1	52.8	35.7	49.3
Kans.	62.1	43.5	55.8	39.9	51.1
W.N.Cent.	61.0	39.4	53.1	33.4	48.1
Del.	42.9	49.6	44.1	17.9	37.0
Md.	55.8	38.6	49.9	26.3	41.4
Va.	47.1	36.2	43.7	32.6	38.6
W.Va.	40.3	29.7	37.1	22.7	32.5
N.C.	40.1	29.6	36.4	23.9	30.6
S.C.	40.4	30.3	37.0	24.0	29.8
Ga.	40.0	33.9	38.1	23.8	29.9
Fla.	42.7	32.7	41.0	28.8	34.0
S.Atl.	42.1	32.2	38.9	26.1	32.7
Ky.	44.7	34.3	41.2	26.1	34.5
Tenn.	39.4	31.6	37.1	23.9	31.6
Ala.	37.3	33.1	36.1	26.6	32.1
Miss.	44.6	30.8	39.9	37.1	38.0
E.S.Cent.	41.6	32.5	38.6	28.1	34.0
Ark.	39.3	33.8	37.7	31.7	34.6
La.	37.6	33.1	36.4	37.2	36.7
Okla.	51.5	38.6	47.2	34.6	43.2
Texas	49.1	33.7	44.1	31.3	37.6
W.S.Cent.	46.1	34.6	42.4	32.6	37.8
Mont.	55.6	40.6	50.3	42.5	48.4
Idaho	58.4	36.0	48.8	38.6	46.0
Wyo.	59.0	36.1	50.0	42.9	47.9
Colo.	57.1	37.1	49.3	40.6	46.4
N.Mex.	49.8	37.7	45.5	37.2	41.8
Ariz.	45.7	31.4	40.5	38.4	39.4
Utah	54.6	34.9	46.1	32.0	41.6
Nev.	61.1	40.1	54.9	50.7	52.4
Mount.	55.8	37.1	48.4	39.3	45.1
Wash.	51.1	32.6	44.6	38.0	41.0
Oreg.	49.5	38.6	45.4	32.5	40.8
Calif.	52.7	34.5	46.6	46.7	46.7
Pac.	51.5	34.9	45.8	42.5	44.2
U.S.	52.0	35.7	46.3	32.9	41.4

^{1/} Includes as "other family" only those farm household members working 15 hours or more per week without receiving cash wages.

Farm Wage Rates, July 1, 1966 1/

Table with columns for State and division, Per month (With/Without board), Per week (With/Without board), Per day (With/Without board), Per hour (With/Without board), Composite rate per hour, and Indexes of composite rates. Lists 48 states/regions from Maine to U.S. averages.

1/ Average rates paid on crop and livestock reporters' farms or in their localities for arrangements specified above. U.S. averages and State composite rates include estimates for unpublished State rates of small importance. 2/ Adjusted for seasonal variation.

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